

MTA-1022

5 September 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau -- August 1981

I OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

The major event of the month occurred on the 5th when the new Knesset convened and approved Prime Minister Begin's proposed cabinet. The bureau remained open past its normal closing time and maintained an open watch on Jerusalem radio and television to cover the event.

On the 25th and 26th Prime Minister Begin flew to Alexandria for his 11th summit conference with Egyptian President As-Sadat. Hampering coverage efforts was the lack of announced broadcast schedules for the summit. Consequently an open watch was maintained for 2 days on Israeli radios. No items involving extensive processing were broadcast by Israeli stations and the only publicly announced major development resulting from the summit was that the autonomy negotiations would resume in September. On the 26th, a joint Begin-Sadat press conference, held in English, was processed by Nicosia Bureau, with Tel Aviv providing fills from Israeli sources. Superimposed simultaneous translations from the English made it difficult for both Nicosia and Tel Aviv to process the leaders' remarks.

Another major issue closely followed during the month was the U.S. embargo on the shipment of aircraft to Israel. The embargo, imposed after the Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor in June, and the attendant controversy resulted in a variety of reports and commentaries being filed from Israeli media. The embargo was finally lifted and on 25 August the bureau filed a Jerusalem report that three F-15's had landed in Israel.

B. Lateral Services

During a visit to Tel Aviv in mid-month Iowa Senator Grassley had complained to the embassy that he was not getting enough news on important world developments. The senator then set off for Egypt with a scheduled return to Tel Aviv a few days later. During the interim Agricultural Attache Al Persi, who was serving as control officer for the senator's visit, asked the bureau whether we might be able to supply news to the senator on his return. The bureau agreed to make copies of important Middle East developments, including the Middle East & South Asian Review. This file was then

passed to the Senator upon his return. Persi later told the bureau chief that Senator Grassley was very pleased with the effort.

II. CRUISING

The pirate television ship Odelia began regular broadcasts to the Tel Aviv area on the 19th. The station, complete with color and commercials, is on the air from about 2000 (local) to midnight, and has been received in the bureau and in the homes of some bureau personnel with fair to poor reception. Odelia has been presenting full-length movies each evening, including such films as "Patton," "Psycho," "Chinatown," and "The Rose," offering video addicts a welcome relief from the usual bland fare of Jerusalem Television.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

Editor [] was promoted to GS-10 effective 9 August. STAT

B. Buildings and Grounds

GSO completed painting the bureau during the month.

A reverse cycle ventilator was installed in a window in the telecommunications section.

IV. VISITS

AG Chief Analyst [] visited the bureau 18-23 August. STAT
The visit included calls on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem and an area media specialist at Tel Aviv University.

V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The bureau chief was invited to a large reception at the ambassador's residence on 31 August. Invited to the reception, held in honor of visiting U.S. politicians--including Chairman of the Republican Party Richard Richards and Senators D'Amato and Pressler--was the entire Knesset, the new cabinet, the

IDF Chief of Staff and other leaders. The bureau chief was able to chat informally with Shimon Peres, the editor of DAVAR and other prominent Israeli citizens.



STAT

Chief, Tel Aviv Bureau

Attachments: A. Production Report
B. Filed Wordage Report
C. Communications Report